United Nations A/HRC/25/NGO/13

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 March 2014

English only

Human Rights Council
Twenty-fifth session
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[13 February 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.14-11607
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Cruel sanctions in violation of economic, social, civil and political rights

The first experience of sanctions from the western countries, Britain's case to be precise, took place during the premiership of Dr. Mosadegh in the 1950s, which was in response to the nationalization of the oil industry.

In the first months following the revolution which resulted in the two countries severing their relations, the United States sanctions against the people of Iran began. These sanctions resulted in the assets of the Iranian people worth 12 billion dollars to be blockaded. The assets included gold, bank deposits and other properties.

During the Iran-Iraq war also another part of the assts of Iran in the United States were frozen. America refused to deliver equipments that had been bought by Iran. Also the giving of grants and facilities to Iran and the supply of equipments and spare parts were banned.

Over the last four years, comprehensive sanctions were imposed by countries and companies against Iran in all trade and investment aspects. These included the prohibition of investments in excess of 40 billion dollars in the oil and gas industry and sanctions against Iranian shipping and airlines, sanctions against the Melli Bank, Sepah Bank and the Iranian Central Bank, and all currency and financial activities. The sanction imposed by SWIFT resulted in the cutting of approximately 90 percent of the Iranian people's foreign trade.

Unfortunately cruel sanctions imposed against the people of Iran both by America and the EU still continue to be imposed which contradicts the spirit of human rights documents, particularly the Declaration on the Right to Development.

This institute believes:

Sanctions affect ordinary people and thus cause the unhappiness and deep mistrust of peace loving and moderate people of Iran towards those that have imposed the sanctions.

The sanctions have made the Iranian people to distance themselves from the market economy. Also resulted in the Iranian economy from being nationalized and the private sector's been marginalized.

Sanctions have taken trade out of official banking and driven towards underground networks.

Sanctions have resulted in further wearing out of the industries and non competitiveness of the economic environment and reduction of economic and industrial growth. In Iran

Sanctions have resulted in a reduction in oil production, currency fluctuations and the instability of currency policies and as a result a drop in the share of the Iranian society in global trade.

Sanctions resulted in a drop in foreign investments and economic participation rates and negative economic growth in the Iranian society.

Sanctions resulted in a drop in people's buying powers in spite of an increase in oil and currency revenues.

Sanctions resulted in an increase in inflation from 22% in 2013 to over 44% in 2014 and a 5.9 increase to the growth of currency in proportion to economic growth.

With a rise in property values, rented properties increased from 22.9 percent in 2006 to 26.6 percent in 2011 and these figures are on a rise which have roots in sanctions.

With the imposition of cruel sanctions, migration, unemployment, marginalization, getting addicted to drugs, age of marriage and divorce rates have increased to 16.3 percent until 201.

Sanctions have reduced the mental health factors and the development of safety infrastructures, and security of the families.

Due to the sanctions on spare parts of cars, and the wear and tear of transport shipments, the death toll on Iran's highways has increased.

For example among the fatalities from transportation are several examples of passengers burning to death in Peugeot cars, Scania buses, trucks and trailers due to mechanical faults in the engines or braking systems.

Also the terrible death of more than 25 schoolchildren on the Izeh Berjen road, the terrible death of nearly 50 people in the flame on board a Scania bus in May 2013 are the results of sanctions imposed on spare part. of buses and cars.

Due to the airline industry sanctions and the failure of those that impose the sanctions to deliver new airplanes instead of aging ones many people have lost their lives in Iran in air accidents:

The crash of a Boeing 727 resulted in the death of 78 passengers. One Topolov TU 154 also crashed in February 2009 resulting in the death of 42 innocent human beings.

In the summer of 2009 another Topolov TU '54 crashed killing 168 people.

These are the most important air incidents in the last four years which have roots in the sanctions on the air industry of Iran.

Sanctions only target the weak and middle classes in Iran.

All of these are in conflict with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

These sanctions are not much less than a full blown military conflict.

Although with the advancement of development in things like renewable and new energies, job creation and tourism, digital government, legislative cooperation, the establishment of a control system of reaching products instead of focusing on the process, working of unity and conformity and omitting parallel political and economic structures, the sanctions can be fought with but:

This organization expects all NGOs around the world to join each other and help to remove inhuman sanctions that negatively affect countries nations, and moderate the levels of international community's demands in countries under sanctions, so that all countries can work side by side freely and in peace to assist the advancement of the MDG and to recognized each others rights economically, socially, politically and peaceful technologies with sustainable development.